



2019-2020 Charter School Program High Quality Replication Grant
COMPETITIVE GRANT Application Due 5:00 p.m. CT, April 30, 2019

NOGA ID

Authorizing Legislation

P.L. 114-95, ESEA, as amended by ESSA, Title IV, Part C; TEC, Chapter 12; TAC, Chapter 100, Subchapter AA

Applicants must submit one original copy of the application and two copies of the application (for a **total of three copies of the application**). All three copies of the application **MUST** bear the signature of a person authorized to bind the applicant to a contractual agreement. **Applications cannot be emailed.** Applications must be received no later than the above-listed application due date and time at:

Document Control Center, Grants Administration Division
Texas Education Agency
1701 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78701-1494

Application stamp-in date and time

RECEIVED
TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY
2019 APR 30 AM 11:59
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GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

Grant period from

July 1, 2019 – August 31, 2020

☒ Pre-award costs are not permitted.

Required Attachments

1. Federal Definition of a Public Charter School
2. Documentation of Authorization to Charter
3. Board of Trustees Approval
4. Narrative Description from Superintendent

Amendment Number

Amendment Number (For amendments only; enter N/A when completing this form to apply for grant funds):

Applicant Information

Organization CDN Vendor ID ESC DUNS
Address City ZIP Phone
Primary Contact Email Phone
Secondary Contact Email Phone

Certification and Incorporation

I understand that this application constitutes an offer and, if accepted by TEA or renegotiated to acceptance, will form a binding agreement. I hereby certify that the information contained in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, correct and that the organization named above has authorized me as its representative to obligate this organization in a legally binding contractual agreement. I certify that any ensuing program and activity will be conducted in accordance and compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

I further certify my acceptance of the requirements conveyed in the following portions of the grant application, as applicable, and that these documents are incorporated by reference as part of the grant application and Notice of Grant Award (NOGA):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grant application, guidelines, and instructions | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Debarment and Suspension Certification |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Provisions and Assurances | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lobbying Certification |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application-specific Provisions and Assurances | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ESSA Provisions and Assurances requirements |

Authorized Official Name

Title

Email

Phone

Signature

Date

Grant Writer Name

Signature

Date

☒ Grant writer is an employee of the applicant organization.

☐ Grant writer is not an employee of the applicant organization.

RFA # SAS #

2019-2020 Charter School Program High-Quality Replicat

701-19-109-017

Shared Services Arrangements**X** SSAs are **not permitted** for this grant.**Identify/Address Needs**

List up to three quantifiable needs, as identified in your needs assessment, that these program funds will address. Describe your plan for addressing each need.

| Quantifiable Need | Plan for Addressing Need |
|---|--|
| According to 2018 STAAR results, only 45% of scholars met standard in Math in HISD | Beta Academy uses rigorous Math curriculum that aligns with both TEKS and College & Career Readiness Standards. We provide yearly professional development, monthly math specific coaching, and weekly peer support in mathematics. Small group tutorials are required for struggling scholars. |
| According to 2018 STAAR results, only 40% of scholars met standard in Reading in HISD | See Attachment 2, pg 1 for response This text field does not expand so it is not large enough to contain all data that answers this question. Please see attachment 2 for response. |
| According to 2018 STAAR results, only 36% of scholars met standard in Writing in HISD | Writing/Language Arts is taught daily beginning in Kindergarten and continuing through middle school. We have a cross-curricular approach to teaching writing by focusing on developing academic language, vocabulary, grammar and composition during Math, Reading, Science and Social Studies. |

SMART Goal

Describe the summative SMART goal you have identified for this program (a goal that is Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely), either related to student outcome or consistent with the purpose of the grant.

Since the start date will be in the fall of 2020 our Smart Goals is as follows:

By August 2020, at least 50% of our enrollment will consist of scholars who are economically disadvantaged.

Measurable Progress

Identify the benchmarks that you will use at the end of the first three grant quarters to measure progress toward meeting the process and implementation goals defined for the grant.

First-Quarter Benchmark

After successfully launching a new, high-quality campus, we will measure our progress in a variety of ways. We will use the free and reduced lunch count and enrollment numbers to determine the percentage of students who are economically disadvantaged as stated in our SMART goal.

Measurable Progress (Cont.)**Second-Quarter Benchmark**

We will continue to closely monitor our free and reduced lunch count and enrollment numbers to ensure we have maintained our Smart Goal of 50% economically disadvantaged scholars.

Third-Quarter Benchmark

We will continue to closely monitor our free and reduced lunch count and enrollment numbers to ensure we have maintained our Smart Goal of 50%.

Project Evaluation and Modification

Describe how you will use project evaluation data to determine when and how to modify your program. If your benchmarks do not show progress towards meeting your summative SMART goal, describe how you will use evaluation data to modify your program for sustainability.

Beta Academy is still a young grass roots organization, therefore, we are not too far removed from the days of going door to door and really becoming part of the community before a school launch. Our start up team is still in place and we are excited to tackle new territory and serve even more scholars. We are committed to serving communities that need schools of choice. We will monitor the enrollment data closely and increase our marketing efforts if we feel the goal is lagging in any way.

Beta will ensure neighborhoods with low performing schools are aware that there is an alternative option for their scholars. We will not only do mailers, but our teams will canvas the neighborhood with flyers to communicate face to face about the new Charter School choice program. If the goal falls behind our prediction, we will increase the number of parent nights we host and schedule weekly informational events. We will do whatever it takes to meet our SMART Goal. We are confident we can exceed even our own expectations.

Statutory/Program Assurances

The following assurances apply to this grant program. In order to meet the requirements of the grant, the grantee must comply with these assurances. Check each of the following boxes to indicate your compliance.

- ☒ 1. The applicant provides assurance that program funds will supplement (increase the level of service), and not supplant (replace) state mandates, State Board of Education rules, and activities previously conducted with state or local funds. The applicant provides assurance that state or local funds may not be decreased or diverted for other purposes merely because of the availability of these funds. The applicant provides assurance that program services and activities to be funded from this grant will be supplementary to existing services and activities and will not be used for any services or activities required by state law, State Board of Education rules, or local policy.
- ☒ 2. The applicant provides assurance that the application does not contain any information that would be protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) from general release to the public.
- ☒ 3. The applicant provides assurance to adhere to all Statutory Requirements, TEA Program Requirements, and Performance Measures, as noted in the 2019–2020 Charter School Program High-Quality Replication Grant Program Guidelines, and shall provide the Texas Education Agency, upon request, any performance data necessary to assess the success of the grant program.
- ☒ 4. The applicant provides assurance that their financial accounting system adheres to the following requirements:
- a. accommodates the minimum 15-digit account code mandated by the FASRG;
 - b. generates information needed for PEIMS reporting; and
 - c. ensures adequate accountability of state and federal funds.
- If the applicant's financial accounting system is not approved by TEA, the applicant assures that it will budget and acquire an acceptable accounting system and training with these grant funds. Additionally, the applicant will be required to submit proof of an acceptable accounting system prior to receiving continued and/or additional funding.
- ☒ 5. The applicant provides assurance that it will maintain clear documentation and data for the school and students served by this grant program, will comply with any reporting and evaluation requirements that may be established by the TEA, and will submit the reports in the format and manner requested by TEA's Division of Financial Compliance. Grantees will be required to cooperate with the team that has been contracted to evaluate the use of the grant funds.
- ☒ 6. The applicant provides assurance that it has on file a certificate of occupancy or the equivalent, for the instructional facility. At any time, should the TEA Charter School Administration Division request a copy, the applicant will provide such copy immediately.
- ☒ 7. According to Title IV, Part C of ESSA, to receive federal grant funds of any type, including U. S. Department of Education funds, the charter school must meet the following definition. By signing Attachment #1 and submitting the application, the authorized official of the public charter school certifies that each of the statements in the definition is true and that the school is in compliance with this definition. A charter school is not eligible to receive any federal funds at any time, formula or discretionary, from TEA if it does not comply with this definition.
- ☒ 8. **Open-enrollment charter holders applying on behalf of a high-quality campus approved by the commissioner of education:** The applicant provides assurance that the existing charter, as approved by the applicable state authorizer (the SBOE or the commissioner of education), and the Application for High-Quality Campus Designation, under which the new charter school campus was approved by the commissioner of education, are incorporated by reference into this grant application and address statutory requirements in compliance with PL 114-95, Title IV, Part C, ESSA.
- ☐ 9. **Charters established under TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C:** The applicant provides assurance that the campus charter school will:
- a. maintain documentation which clearly demonstrates the supplementary nature of these funds;
 - b. be established according to and in compliance with TEC, Chapter 12, Subchapter C, Sections 12.051-12.065;
 - c. be designated as a campus charter in the Texas Education Agency (TEA) organizational database, AskTED, prior to operating as a campus charter for the 2019-2020 school year; and
 - d. be permitted to govern autonomously, as evidenced by the day-to-day decision makers at the campus charter school and their input with regard to the school's curriculum, calendar, budget, and daily operations. This autonomy will be above and beyond the degree of flexibility and autonomy afforded to traditional campuses within the district. traditional campuses within the district.

Statutory/Program Assurances

The following assurances apply to this grant program. In order to meet the requirements of the grant, the grantee must comply with these assurances. Check each of the following boxes to indicate your compliance.

- ☐ 10. **Charters established under TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C:** The applicant provides assurance that, as per Title V, Part B, Subpart 1, Section 5204(f)(4)(B), the local education agency (LEA) will not deduct funds for administrative fees or expenses from a subgrant awarded to an eligible applicant, unless the eligible applicant enters voluntarily into a mutually agreed upon arrangement for administrative services with the relevant LEA. Absent such approval, the LEA shall distribute all subgrant funds to the eligible applicant without delay.
- ☐ 11. **Charters established under TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C:** The applicant provides assurance that the school district will:
- a. participate in the Texas Authorizer Leadership Academy (TALA) program;
 - b. review and adopt the Texas Education Agency's model Chapter 12, Subchapter C authorizer policies and charter application;
 - c. annually publish its authorizer policies;
 - d. submit its updated policies and charter application to TEA, along with the exact web address where this information is posted on the district's website, by October 1, 2019;
 - e. work with a high-quality charter management organization (CMO) or create an innovation management organization (IMO) that will have its own independent board, separate and apart from the school district's board of trustees, to oversee management of the originating campus and its replication; and
 - f. work with a high-quality charter management organization (CMO) or create an innovation management organization (IMO) that will have an Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer (CMO) who is responsible for management of the originating campus and its replication.

By certifying acceptance of and compliance with these provisions and assurances (11 a-f), the applicant further certifies that noncompliance with any of these provisions and assurances may result in forfeiture of participation in this grant program.

Statutory Requirements

1. Describe the roles and responsibilities of the eligible applicant, any partner organizations, and charter management organizations, as applicable, including the administrative and contractual roles and responsibilities of such partners.

The applicant will open and operate a campus that will provide a school of choice with excellent academic outcomes for educationally disadvantaged students. The new campus will be responsible for improving student learning, increasing educational opportunities, attracting new teachers to the public charter school system, and encouraging different and innovative learning methods.

All funds provided by the grant will supplement and not supplant any state funds needed to open a high-quality campus. These supplemental funds will be used to prepare the campus for a successful opening and operation of the 2020-21 school year. The responsibility of launching the school will rest firmly on Beta Academy. Beta does not contract with any partner organizations or charter management organizations.

2. Describe the quality controls agreed to between the eligible applicant and the authorized public chartering agency involved, such as a contract or performance agreement, how a school's performance in the state's accountability system and impact on student achievement (which may include student academic growth) will be one of the most important factors for renewal or revocation of the school's charter, and how TEA and the authorized public chartering agency involved will reserve the right to revoke or not renew a school's charter based on financial, structural, or operational factors involving the management of the school.

See Attachment 2, pg 1-2 for response

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3. Describe how the autonomy and flexibility granted to the proposed charter school campus is consistent with the definition of a charter school in Section 4310, including how the proposed charter school campus will have a high degree of autonomy over budget and operations and personnel decisions. Include a detailed description of the ways in which the proposed charter school campus will be permitted to govern autonomously, as evidenced by the day-to-day decision makers at the campus and their input with regard to the school's curriculum, calendar, budget, and daily operations. For a charter school campus authorized by the local board of trustees pursuant to TEC, Chapter 12, Subchapter C, describe how this autonomy is above and beyond the degree of flexibility and autonomy afforded to traditional campuses within the school district.

See Attachment 2, pg 2-3 for response

This text field does not expand so it is not large enough to contain all data that answers this question. Please see attachment 2 for response.

Statutory Requirements

4. Describe how the eligible applicant will solicit and consider input from parents and other members of the community on the implementation and operation of the proposed charter school campus.

Beta Academy will conduct Parent Nights for potential families before we launch. Everyone is invited to hear our vision for the community and learn more about the school's educational program. Surveys will be passed out after the meeting where attendees can rate our presentation and give suggestions for what else we need to include. Administrative staff will also stay to answer questions until everyone has been serviced. After the school year begins, we will hold Feedback Nights for the families. On a specified date and time, parents can come and meet one-on-one with administrative staff to discuss any concerns or suggestions they may have. This offers them a chance to receive personal care in a private setting and to have their ideas heard. Towards the end of the year, the school will also send out an electronic survey to the parents giving them yet another opportunity to provide their valuable input and feedback.

5. Describe the eligible applicant's planned activities and expenditures of grant funds to open and prepare for the operation of the proposed high-quality charter school campus, and how the eligible applicant will maintain financial sustainability after the end of the grant period.

Operational Costs (6400) and Capital Outlay (6600): Grant funds will be utilized to purchase inventory for classrooms and administrative offices, i.e., staff, teacher, and scholar desks; chairs, tables, filing and storage cabinets, bookshelves, mimio and dry erase boards, projectors, IT equipment, computers, printers, copiers, visitor badging system, and intercom system. Janitorial equipment will also be purchased with these funds. After the disbursement of grant funds, future purchases will be purchased with State 420 and local funds and/or other awarded grant fundings.

Supplies and Materials (6300): Grant funds will be utilized to purchase start up curriculum, assessment materials, and other allowable expenses associated with campus startup needs. Future salaries will be paid from State 420 and local funds and/or other awarded grant fundings.

Professional Contracted Services (6200): Any allowable contracted services needed for startup will be paid for with grant funds. Services/needs to be fully identified and purchased will include professional development, training for SFA reading program, other curriculum training, student assessments, and IT services. Future salaries will be paid from State 420 and local funds and/or other awarded grant fundings.

Salaries (6100): Grant funds will be used to pay the salaries of 1 campus school leader and 1 administrative assistant for the grant's allowable time frame. Grant funds will also be used to pay for teacher salaries during teacher in-service, professional development, and for salaries during the start-up time frame as grant funds allow. Future salaries will be paid from State 420 and local funds and/or other awarded grant fundings.

6. Describe how the eligible applicant will support the use of effective parent, family, and community engagement strategies to operate the proposed charter school campus.

School commences with a Meet the Teacher Extravaganza where we create a bonding experience for the new families as we communicate Beta Academy's vision and inspire a sense of community. Scholars and their parents can connect with their new teachers and administrators, see the classrooms where they will be learning, and become familiar with the campus. Throughout the school year, teachers will use a variety of communication methods to stay in touch with the parents, such as email, text messages, monthly calendars, and personal phone calls. Educators will track their conversations with a Teacher Communication Log. They are required to make contact at a minimum of 2 to 3 times per month. Each month, Beta will offer a variety of family nights that families can attend, for example: Science Night, Parenting Classes, STAAR Preparation, annual Art Show, holiday performances, etc. We want our scholars to look beyond our own campus and contribute to the community at large. Each grade level will focus on a different community service project such as visiting nursing homes or volunteering at the local animal shelter. Through these activities, the children will learn to understand their responsibility in the larger world around them

Statutory Requirements

7. Describe the eligible applicant's plan for meeting the transportation needs of the students at the proposed charter school campus.

We realize we are serving a high needs population and try to provide options for the families that require help. The selected school campus will be located in close proximity to the neighborhoods and apartment buildings for convenience. Doors will open an hour early for parents to drop their children off on the way to work, and the scholars will gather in a safe location where teachers supervise them until morning assembly. We will also coordinate transportation options with daycare, before and after school programs, and bus providers that accept NCI.

8. Describe and justify any requests for waivers of any Federal statutory or regulatory provisions that the eligible applicant believes are necessary for the successful operation of the charter school, and a description of any state or local rules, generally applicable to public schools, that the applicant proposes to be waived or otherwise not apply to the school.

Beta Academy is not requesting any waivers regarding Federal Statutory or regulatory provisions at this time.

TEC, Subchapter C, Campus Charter Schools, must address the following requirement (#9):

9. Describe the educational program of the existing high-quality charter school that the district has partnered with at the proposed charter school campus, including a) how the program will enable all students to meet challenging state student academic achievement standards; b) the grade levels or ages of children to be served; and c) the curriculum and instructional practices to be used. Provide reference to relevant program-related attachments, including page numbers, where necessary.

Not Applicable

Statutory Requirements

TEC, Subchapter C, Campus Charter Schools, must address the following requirements listed below (#10 - #13):

10. Describe how the district authorizer will monitor the proposed charter school campus in recruiting, enrolling, retaining, and meeting the needs of all students, including children with disabilities and English learners. Provide reference to relevant program-related attachments, including page numbers, where necessary.

Not Applicable

11. Describe the manner in which an annual independent financial audit of the campus is to be conducted. The campus charter must have a plan for an audit that is separate and apart from the district's annual financial audit. Provide reference to relevant program-related attachments, including page numbers, where necessary.

Not Applicable

12. Describe the manner in which the campus will provide information necessary for the school district in which it is located to participate, as required by TEC, Chapter 12, Subchapter C, or by SBOE rule, in public education information systems (PEIMS). Provide reference to relevant program-related attachments, including page numbers, where necessary.

Not Applicable

13. Describe the manner in which the district will flow other federal and state funds to the proposed charter school campus. Describe the timelines for flowing the federal and state funds to the campus that will ensure students are promptly receiving the benefit of services that appropriate federal and state funds can provide. Provide reference to relevant program-related attachments, including page numbers, where necessary.

Not Applicable

TEA Program Requirements

1. Provide the number of students in each grade, by type of school, projected to be served under the grant program in 2019–2020.

| Charter School Type | PK | K | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | Total | |
|---|----|---------------|---|---|----------------|---|---|----------------|---|---|---|----|----|----|-------|--|
| State-Authorized | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Not Applicable - No students will be served during the 2019–2020 school year. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Staff | | Total Parents | | | Total Families | | | Total Campuses | | | | | | | | |

2. Provide the number of students in each grade, by type of school, projected to be served under the grant program in 2020–2021.

| Charter School Type | PK | K | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | Total |
|---------------------|----|---------------|----|-----|----------------|---|----|----------------|---|---|---|----|----|----|-------|
| State-Authorized | 0 | 90 | 80 | 80 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 250 |
| Total Staff | 31 | Total Parents | | 180 | Total Families | | 90 | Total Campuses | | 1 | | | | | |

3. Provide the number of students to be served in 2019 -2020 who would otherwise attend a school identified as an *Improvement Required* campus (from the most recent accountability ratings) that serves the same grade levels as the proposed charter school. Please click on the *All Campuses by Rating* link available at <https://tea.texas.gov/2018accountability.aspx> for more information.

| Charter School Type | PK | K | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | Total |
|---|----|---------------|---|-----|----------------|---|----|----------------|---|---|---|----|----|----|-------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Not Applicable - No students will be served during the 2019–2020 school year. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Staff | 31 | Total Parents | | 180 | Total Families | | 90 | Total Campuses | | 1 | | | | | |

4. Provide the names and nine-digit county/district/campus numbers of the campuses identified as an *Improvement Required* campus (from the most recent accountability ratings) that serves the same grade levels as the proposed charter school that you will be impacting as described above. Please click on the *All Campuses by Rating* link available at <https://tea.texas.gov/2018accountability.aspx> for more information.

| # | District Name | Campus Name | 9 Digit CDC Number |
|---|---------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 1. | | | |
| 2. | | | |
| 3. | | | |
| 4. | | | |
| 5. | | | |
| 6. | | | |
| Not Applicable - No students will be served during the 2019–2020 school year. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | |

5. **TEC, Subchapter C, Campus Charter Schools (check all that apply):**

- ☐ a. The school district is currently participating in the Texas Authorizer Leadership Academy (TALA) and/or the System of Great Schools (SGS) Network.
- ☐ b. The school district board of trustees will establish a separate, independent operator board to oversee charter school replication activities within the district.

Equitable Access and Participation

Check the appropriate box below to indicate whether any barriers exist to equitable access and participation for any groups that receive services funded by this grant.

- ☒ The applicant assures that no barriers exist to equitable access and participation for any groups receiving services funded by this grant.
- ☐ Barriers exist to equitable access and participation for the following groups receiving services funded by this grant, as described below.

| | | | |
|-------|----------------------|---------|----------------------|
| Group | <input type="text"/> | Barrier | <input type="text"/> |
| Group | <input type="text"/> | Barrier | <input type="text"/> |
| Group | <input type="text"/> | Barrier | <input type="text"/> |
| Group | <input type="text"/> | Barrier | <input type="text"/> |

PNP Equitable Services

☒ PNP Equitable Services **does not apply** to this grant.

Request for Grant Funds

List all of the allowable grant-related activities for which you are requesting grant funds. Include the amounts budgeted for each activity. Group similar activities and costs together under the appropriate heading. During negotiation, you will be required to budget your planned expenditures on a separate attachment provided by TEA.

Total Planning Activity Costs (refinement of the desired educational results and the methods for measuring progress toward achieving those results and professional development of teachers and other staff who will work in the charter school) \$208,000

Total Implementation Activity Costs (informing the community about the school, acquiring necessary equipment and educational materials and supplies, acquiring or developing curriculum materials, and other initial operational costs that cannot be met from state or local sources) \$392,000

Total Planning Activity Costs + Total Implementation Activity Costs
(This amount should match TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST) \$600,000

PAYROLL COSTS (6100)**BUDGET**

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| School Leader | \$66,000 |
| Administrative Asst | \$41,000 |
| Teachers | \$132,000 |
| | 0 |

PROFESSIONAL AND CONTRACTED SERVICES (6200)

| | |
|--|----------|
| Professional Development for SFA program and curriculum related PD | \$30,000 |
| Special Needs contracted services | \$10,000 |
| | |

SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS (6300)

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Assessment materials | \$5,000 |
| Instructional Materials | \$50,000 |
| Misc startup supplies | \$10,000 |

OTHER OPERATING COSTS (6400)

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Misc startup operational expenses | \$20,000 |
| | |
| | |

CAPITAL OUTLAY (6600)

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Inventory purchases for classrooms, admin offices (desks, chairs, file cabinets, storage units, boards, etc) | \$236,000 |
| | |

TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST \$600,000